



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Albuquerque Field Office  
435 Montañito Road NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1610 (010)

June 1999

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA), Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area, and contiguous lands. The plan provides alternatives for managing the natural resources and uses in the NCA, addresses amendments to the Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan, and assesses the suitability of the Chain of Craters area for wilderness designation. Your careful review and comments are needed at this time to ensure that your concerns have been considered in the planning process. (Please note: This hard copy is your review copy. Please retain this document; the Proposed Plan Amendment/Final EIS may be printed in short form, so this draft may be referenced.)

Please direct your comments to the El Malpais Plan Team Leader at the above address. Written comments must be postmarked no later than September 24, 1999. Also use this address when requesting further information on materials referenced in the Draft Plan.

Comments on the alternatives and the adequacy of the impact analysis are most useful when they address one or more of the following:

- Errors in the analysis,
- New information that would have a bearing on the analysis,
- Misinformation that could affect the outcome of the analysis,
- Requests for clarification,
- A substantive new alternative whose mix of allocations differ from any of the existing alternatives.

Where possible, refer to the pages and paragraphs on which you are commenting.

Formal verbal comments will be received at the following public hearings, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and continue until those signed up to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

- Monday, July 26, Grants High School, 500 Mountain Road, Grants, NM
- Tuesday, July 27, Quemado High School, Highway 60, Quemado, NM
- Wednesday, July 28, Del Norte High School, 5323 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM

A 5-minute time limit will be placed on all verbal comments, which should be accompanied by a written summary of the presentation. Verbal and written comments will be fully considered and evaluated during preparation of the Proposed Plan Amendment/Final EIS.

Sincerely,

  
Edwin J. Singleton  
Manager, Albuquerque Field Office